

Air Force Prime Time, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs this Thursday evening at 8:25 p.m. Central European Time on AFN television. In this week's edition, why the Air Force is putting more money and people into recruiting, what Air Force leaders think about the new recruiting and retention plan and more.



News briefs

Awards banquet

The 52nd Fighter Wing annual awards banquet takes place Feb. 24 in the Spangdahlem Air Base fitness center. This year's theme is, "America's Air Force - No One Comes Close." Special guest speaker is Maj. Gen. Kenneth Hess, 3rd Air Force commander. Tickets cost \$20 and are available through unit first sergeants until Feb. 16.

Travel advisory

Unofficial travel to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, is limited to immediate family members of permanent party and deployed members. Family members may travel via the Space-A to Incirlik AB with a copy of the member's orders and an approval letter allowing the family to enter the country. Call Space-A office at 330-7746 for flight availability or more information.

Holiday hours

The following Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities close Monday, President's Day.

Spangdahlem - Military clothing store, Popeye's, car care center, SIXT car rental, flower shop and service mart.

Bitburg - Furniture store, Anthony's pizza, service mart, Dold Exquisite and Castle Theater.

Operating hours for other AAFES facilities are:

Spangdahlem

Burger King - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Filling station - 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Barber/beauty shop - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

BXtra - 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Alterations - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

See Briefs, Page 2

Eifel Times

Vol. 35, Issue 6

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Feb. 16, 2001



Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

Combat knowledge

A member of the German military trains Staff Sgt. Daniel Johnson, 52nd Security Forces Squadron combat arms instructor, on firing a German MG machine gun at the Spangdahlem Air Base outdoor firing range Feb. 8. The German unit performs its quarterly weapons qualifications at the base range.

Wing CE pegs AF-level award

By Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

The Air Force recently announced the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron as the Society of American Military Engineers Curtin Award winner for 2000. Walk through the squadron's halls, and murals listing dates the unit has won U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Force-level recognition clearly show the squadron knows its stuff. This year's award marks the 12th time the 52nd CES is deemed the best in USAFE and the third time at Air Force.

"The key to our success is the quality of our people and the attitude they convey," said Lt. Col. Kim Traver, 52nd CES

commander. "All this results in good teamwork . . . We've been competing well for the past 25 years and just in the past three years we've won at Air Force level as best readiness flight, best operations flight, best (explosive ordnance disposal) flight, best engineering flight, runner up for best environmental flight and now as the best (civil engineer) squadron. We've also won a variety of individual awards. It's indicative of the type of people we have."

Teamwork, said Traver, makes the difference. And that teamwork is shared among airmen and U.S. and German-national

See Curtin, Page 2

Contracting wins USAFE recognition after busy year

By Capt. Vanessa Grant
52nd Contracting Squadron Business Programs

U.S. Air Forces in Europe officials recently named the 52nd Contracting Squadron outstanding operational contracting squadron for 2000.

In addition to unit recognition, several squadron members were also named as USAFE's best. Senior Master Sgt. Michael Berg, squadron superintendent, was named outstanding contracting enlisted member. Senior Airman Julie Hoglund earned outstanding contracting enlisted member and Charlotte Beacham was named outstanding contracting civilian.

Contracting stayed busy throughout 2000 as it members awarded about \$17.8 million in contracts in more than 16 countries. The broad range of contracts awarded included

renovations of hospitals and schools for U.S. Embassy humanitarian assistance missions in Ghana and Senegal to the recent completion of Spangdahlem Air Base's new flightline kitchen.

Much of the squadron's success in international deployments and operations resulted from its effective contingency contracting program. During last year's USAFE inspector general functional inspection, 52nd CONS contingency contracting cell was awarded a "Pat on the Back" for exceptional management of one of the busiest contingency contracting operations in the European theater.

Additionally, Spangdahlem AB finished first in 2000 for the third consecutive year in the USAFE Top Dollar competition. The joint contracting and comptroller competition

tests operational capability in a contingency situation. Contracting members 1st Lt. Mark Hansen and Senior Airman Susan Nichols also earned the title "Best Contracting Team" in the competition.

In addition to handling a multitude of deployments and humanitarian assistance missions, contracting remained busy at home. Spangdahlem AB is the site of USAFE's only co-located Simplified Acquisition Base Engineering Requirements, or SABER, construction flight. Last year, the flight awarded more than \$1.8 million DM in projects, including Spangdahlem AB's professional development center renovations to the construction of the northern perimeter fence enclosing land acquired for the Rhein-Main initiative.

In 2000, government contracting offices

around the world saw the implementation of the Air Force-wide Procurement Desktop-Defense. Spangdahlem AB was chosen as a USAFE test base for the new program. This system has the capability to complete contracts from requirement generation to contract close-out without hard copies, satisfying the Air Force directive of being paperless by 2005. The new paperless contracting distributes copies of the contracts to the contractor through electronic means.

Wing contracting future includes hosting the base's first Vendor Day 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. April 18 in the Eifel Stern in Bitburg village. The event will allow Eifel-region customers to meet with local vendors and see the variety of services and products available.

Call the 52nd CONS at 453-7046 for more Vendor Day information.

Curtin

Continued from Page 1

civilians – about 40 percent of the squadron – making it one of the largest employers of German nationals on base.

“Without them being part of the team . . . we probably couldn’t have achieved this success,” Traver said. “To a large degree, our civilians should be credited for our success as our military members move and deploy. They (civilian members) provide stability.”

With a seemingly endless list of base construction projects and unit needs, one of the challenges the civil engineers once faced is determining to which projects money and manpower should go first. The squadron settled this challenge by using the teamwork concept – CE will do the work and groups, under the guidance of their commanders, determine which projects need immediate attention.

“As we say, ‘We can do anything, but we can’t do everything,’ so we leave that decision to the groups,” Traver said.

Civil engineers also take the teamwork concept into the

local community as members work closely with local officials, especially concerning Spangdahlem Air Base’s expansion project. By keeping local town councils up-to-date on base long term projects, officials can offer suggestions and voice concerns about how certain projects may effect their community.

The effect on local communities isn’t always negative, however. Because the 52nd CES has an exceptional relationship with local towns, it’s often invited to join in local community projects, including Binsfeld’s 1,156 anniversary celebration. Squadron members have also helped by planting indigenous trees, stocked fishing ponds, provided trash clean-up teams, constructed hiking trails and regularly conducts ground water contamination monitoring, protecting the local environment.

Additionally, the 52nd CES maintains about \$120 million in construction projects in various stages of completion, of which at least one-third of the money directly and indirectly feeds into the local economy, said Traver.

In addition to completing construction and repair projects,

and working with the local community, the 52nd CES trained hard in the past year honing and perfecting its mission requirement skills.

The squadron broke the USAFE record in rapid runway repair and flawlessly passed the 2000 surety inspection and earned inspector general praise.

Squadron members deployed throughout the year helping in exercises, humanitarian missions and military operations in Slovakia, Croatia, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Ecuador.

Saving money where it can is another CE project. Last year, the squadron saved more than \$1 million in utility costs and furniture and appliance repair.

With all that work, morale is kept high through unit functions, and supervisors’ care and assistance, according to Airman 1st Class Aaron Mills. The structural apprentice said he finds Spangdahlem Air Base to be a good assignment because the workload keeps him busy and he’s gaining good construction experience.

Weber Josef, 52nd CES carpenter of 15 years, agreed.

“Ja, ja. It’s good work.”

Accidents

By Senior Airman Kassandra Watts
52nd Security Forces Squadron
Reports and Analysis

There were two major accidents in the Eifel region this past week involving American drivers.

The first accident occurred on L-32 in Bitburg involving an American driving a 1999 Ford Coupe and a German national driving a black Audi. The American was attempting a U-turn when his vehicle was struck on the driver’s side. The Ford received \$9,000 in damage and the Audi was disabled. Both people involved in the accident were transported to the hospital for injuries.

The second major accident involved a government vehicle and occurred on B-50 adjacent to the lookout point near Metterich. The investigation revealed the military driver operating the government vehicle failed to negotiate a curve in the road causing the vehicle to swerve into the oncoming lane. The

vehicle then left the hardened surface, destroying one road marker, two traffic signs and struck a tree. The government vehicle was disabled. Fortunately, the driver and passenger were wearing seatbelts and weren’t injured.

In addition, there were 12 minor accidents:

■ Three of the accidents resulted from improper backing.

■ Four of the accidents were in parking lots.

■ Three of the accidents occurred on B-50.

■ Two of the accidents occurred on wet roads.

The damage from minor accidents this past week totaled \$5,000.

In addition, 30 citations were issued this week – four for speeding on B-50. All speeding violations on B-50 result in double points assessed toward people’s driving records.



Courtesy photo

The military driver operating this government vehicle Feb. 7 failed to negotiate a curve on B-50.

Briefs

Continued from Page 1

Main exchange – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

New car sales and Willi Geck – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Anthony’s Pizza – 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Bitburg

Filling station – 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Car care center – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Burger King Express – 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Barber/beauty shop – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Shoppette and Box Office Video – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Main exchange – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

New car sales – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Optical shop, Willi Geck, Unique Gifts, H&R Block, GNC, Style Fashion – 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Commissary closures

The Spangdahlem Air Base commissary closes Monday and the Bitburg Annex Monday and Tuesday for President’s Day.

Sick call

The 52nd Medical Group triage line allows patients who feel they have an urgent medical problem to speak to a nurse for an initial evaluation before being seen by a medical provider. It’s available 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays by calling 452-8333 or commercial at 06565-958333. After duty hours and holidays, patients should call 453-3444 or commercial at 06561-693444.

Top 3

The Spangdahlem Top 3 meets 3 p.m. Wednesday in the Saber Club. Senior NCOs and master sergeant selectees are invited to attend. Call Master Sgt. Dennis Cox at 452-8365 for details.

Prayer breakfast

A National Prayer Breakfast takes place at 7 a.m. Wednesday in the Saber Club. Guest speaker is Command Chaplain (Col.) John Stefero, European Command. Cost is \$5. Purchase tickets at the Spangdahlem Air Base Chapel. Call 452-6711 for more information.

Earth week

The Earth Week Working Group meets at 3 p.m. Wednesday in building 127. People interested in volunteering for base Call Colleen Wilcox at 452-5125 for details.

AFSA meeting

The Air Force Sergeants Association chapter 1681 luncheon takes place 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 23 in the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center. People interested in joining are encouraged to attend the free luncheon. Call Senior Master Sgt. Cris Kahle at 452-6060 for details.

Recycling

Yellow recycling bags are now available in building 127, the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight’s new office location. Call Tech. Sgt. Andy Harper at 452-5124 for details.

Club cards

Members deployed more than 30 days to

a base without a club, such as some bases in Southeast Asia, can take a copy of their orders to their assigned base club and have their dues suspended until they return. Call Lynda Bidderman at 452-6992 for details.

Pet registration

Dog, cat and ferret owners assigned to a base in the Eifel region must register their pets with the Spangdahlem Air Base Veterinary Treatment Facility and provide current rabies vaccination proof within 21 days upon arrival. Members who own another type of pet and provide child care services must register those pets as well.

The registration must be updated annually by providing proof of vaccination to the veterinary treatment facility on Oberweis Annex. The VTF accepts electronic registration or the printed DD Form 2343 until March 31. Send forms by e-mail to spencer.rob@spangdahlem.af.mil or by fax at DSN 453-7360. Members who’s pets have had a rabies vaccination done by the VTF within the past 12 months don’t need to complete the form unless their information has changed.



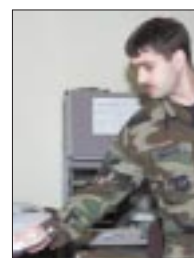
Staff Sgt. Phil Coffman, NATO Squadron 1, picks up a package from postal volunteer and military spouse Vicki Garcia.



Staff Sgt. Michael Alleyne, pharmacy technician with the 52nd Medical Group, labels a prescription for a patient at the U.S. Air Force Clinic on NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen.

photos by Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero

Sound OFF!



Senior Airman Jeremiah Bingham, finance, 1 1/2 years at GK

"I like that I live off base and I'm not forced to live in base housing. Shopping is a challenge, though. That's why I use Spang or Ramstein."



Tech. Sgt. Warren Weakley, security forces chief, 1 1/2 years at GK
"We live in a tri-border area. You learn to keep different types of money in your pocket -- until the Euro (European dollar) comes out at least."



Staff Sgt. Sabrina Moseley, laboratory, 1 1/2 years at GK
"It's perfectly located in Europe. I love the travel; it's just wonderful."

Small unit provides big support at NATO base

By Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

While the 470th Air Base Squadron faces unique challenges of supporting a 14-nation flying mission, reliance on its host unit at Spangdahlem Air Base isn't one of them.

As the United States Air Forces in Europe component at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany, the nearly 150 members of the 470th ABS provide base support to about 450 U.S. Air Force people assigned to the airborne warning and control system mission there.

The squadron is a geographically separated unit attached to Spangdahlem Air Base. It's located about two hours northwest on a NATO base nestled along the borders of Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

"Because support services (at Spangdahlem AB) are too far removed as a result of the nearly two-hour drive, this unit was put here to provide the type of services people expect when they come overseas," said Lt. Col. Ken Koehler (pronounced Kayler), 470th ABS deputy commander.

Those services include child development and family support centers, finance, postal, dental, medical, military personnel flight, civil engineering, security, communications and more.

"We're a Spangdahlem Air Base unit, just located about two hours away," said Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Malenfant, unit first sergeant and also the 52nd Fighter Wing command group first sergeant of the year nominee. "We primarily use Spangdahlem as a home base for which to filter paperwork."

Otherwise, its small stature - with a number of two-person shops such as medical laboratory and pharmacy - doesn't translate into total dependency upon its "big brother" at Spangdahlem AB.

"We offer as much to the extent we have the manning to do it," Koehler said. "It's merely a matter of how many services we can provide. We're manned as a GSU, but people expect the services of a larger base. Because of our size, it's challenging and, at times, we're constrained by restrictions imposed through NATO requirements."

One area within the squadron that has no choice but to rely on its host is the U.S. Air Force Clinic. It has to depend upon Spangdahlem Air Base for training and manning assistance.

"It's hard to let our people go for training or TDYs, because that means we have to pay someone from Spangdahlem to come here," said Maj. Heidie Rothschild, USAF Clinic administrator. "Still, it's important for our folks to get the training they need."

Such was the case with the pharmacy. Staff Sgt. Michael Alleyne, pharmacy technician from the 52nd Medical Group, is mid-way through a three-week, manning-assist TDY to the Geilenkirchen base. One of the two technicians from the pharmacy there is TDY to the NCO Academy at Ramstein AB.

"We need two people in the pharmacy for quality control," Rothschild said.

"When one is gone, we have to bring in someone from Spangdahlem. We could shut down the pharmacy, but we can't inconvenience patients that way."

As the only USAFE unit that far north in Germany, other GSUs such as Allied Forces North in the Netherlands, also rely on the 470th ABS.

One of the biggest challenges the unit faces concerns morale, welfare and recreation traditionally provided by Air Force services squadrons. At this base, NATO operates those facilities - clubs, library, dining facility. "NATO views its funds as not for entertainment. As a result, a lot of creature comforts aren't available," Koehler said.

That's where the recent \$40,000 from the command's Funding Opportunities for Communities in USAFE helps. FOCUS money comes from a central account held for the USAFE commander to pay for hard-to-fund, quality-of-life improvements.

"We used some of the FOCUS money already in the chapel fellowship hall . . . a highly used meeting place," Koehler said. "We also plan to completely renovate the kitchen facilities, plumbing and fixtures in the CDC. Another popular area is the library, where we hope to put some of the money to use."

Still, Koehler feels the services the unit provides are tremendous compared to smaller GSU, and he knows having gone to the NATO base following a tour at one of those smaller units. A lot of people there tend to agree with him.

"It's nice, quiet and usually slow," said Senior Airman Aaron Green, a postal clerk in his eighth month at the base. "They do a pretty good job of taking care of us."

"It rains a little more than I like, but it's so green . . . I love it," said Vicki Garcia, a military spouse and base volunteer. "Everything I need is right here."

The lack of base housing doesn't both most people, either. Actually, it's quite the opposite.

"Because you're forced to live in the community, you truly get the opportunity to experience a different culture," said Staff Sgt. Angelita Turner, laboratory technician serving an in-place consecutive overseas tour at the base.

Part of the lure for people is the base's small-town charm. "During four years in the states, I worked every holiday except three . . . 10-hour shifts, weekends," Turner said. "This is 8-5 with a smaller workload. I absolutely love it here."

Malenfant attributes much of the unit's success in accomplishing its mission to the people assigned to the 470th ABS.

"While they're not handpicked, they are screened for an assignment here," he said. "We have nothing but the best people. We have some young airmen, but you'll mostly find staff sergeants and above. To deal with the multinational environment, you have to be top notch."

Although crammed into small, spread-out facilities making up work centers for the 470th ABS, its evident people assigned there adapt to the challenges of a GSU rather than adopt a reliance on Spangdahlem AB.

Logistics NCO crowned local village prince

American couple represents German community as 'royal' Fasching ambassadors

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

While most people on the base change out of their uniforms to start the weekend fun, one Spangdahlem Air Base NCO will change into another uniform to go dancing and singing to be just plain silly.

Tech. Sgt. Gary Hoffman, a Missouri native assigned to the 52nd Logistics Support Squadron and his wife, Theresa, have been selected as the Fasching prince and princess for the town of Welschbillig. Until Ash Wednesday, Feb. 28, the Hoffmans represent their community at Fasching celebrations, balls and parades throughout the Eifel region.

It's an honor for an American member to be the prince of Welschbillig, the village he has lived in since 1986.

"One evening the president of the Welschbillig carnival club came to our house and asked me and my wife if we were interested in being the prince and princess this year. It was hard to say no," Hoffman said. The Hoffmans finally agreed.

It's not a coincidence the community chose the sergeant and his wife for the honor. The Hoffmans are active members of their community.

"I've been involved with the community for a long time," Hoffman said. "I'm a member of the volunteer fire department and have always helped the town decorate the town hall or gymnasium for Fasching. I've also been dancing with our Fasching men's ballet for the past four years. I believe people no longer think of me as an American, but as a German with a bad accent."

Their 12-year old daughter, Tamara, is also involved with the community and has danced with the carnival club since she was 6.

After accepting their new position, the prince and princess had a lot to accomplish in just a few weeks. It wasn't easy to keep the secret from the town's people, a local rule by the carnival club, while preparing for the upcoming proclamation ceremony. The couple had to pick out costumes, get the crown and organize flowers to be thrown to the guests at the ceremony, all while maintaining tight lips.

The day of the proclamation, Jan. 13, the Hoffmans officially took on a new name.

"We were introduced with our official titles, 'Gary, the first honorable knight from the land of the unlimited opportunities and world-famous counting machines' and 'Theresa, the first treasurer and key keeper to the secret safes in the land of the black briefcases'," Hoffman said.



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Gary and Theresa Hoffman in their role as Welschbillig Fasching prince and princess. Theresa gets a welcome kiss from Franz-Josef Hammes, the village carnival club president.

Following a couple of speeches, comical acts and dancing performances, the Buergermeister, or town mayor, presented the symbolic key to the city to its new rulers. The mayor transfers all authority to the prince and princess until after Fasching is over.

"Because I'm American and my wife is German, we came up with a special Fasching medal this year," Hoffman said. "It shows the German and American flags and is only given to special guests and those who helped with festivities."

Hoffman said he knew being prince would be a lot of

You are cordially invited . . .

Celebrate Fasching with the Hoffmans at the following events:

■ A fasching fun session takes place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Welschbillig.

■ The Welschbillig men's ballet and a festival takes place at 8 p.m. Feb. 23.

■ A costume ball takes place at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24.

■ A children's ball takes place at 3 p.m. Feb. 26.

■ A masquerade ball takes place at 8 p.m. Feb. 26.

■ A fasching parade takes place at 2 p.m. Feb. 27.

For more information about Fasching events in Welschbillig, call Prince Gary at 0172-6806416.

work, but he has help from friends and community members. "Three people are building the prince and princess float wagon for us. I haven't been able to work on it at all," he said. "They're doing a fantastic job."

According to the prince, the wagon has a different theme annually. This year's theme is the underwater world.

To pay for some expenses, the couple received a donation from the Welschbillig carnival club. Most of the money goes toward purchasing materials for the Fasching wagon, Hoffman said.

Since their election in January, the prince and princess have represented the community at numerous area functions and events.

"We represent our town very nicely and everyone is proud of us," he said. The club president has also been getting phone calls from other towns saying how well Welschbillig is doing with Fasching.

The American prince wears his royal uniform with pride.

"The whole town stands behind us and it makes a difference to us to look nice. I take a certain pride in wearing the (Fasching) uniform, just like it is when I put on a military uniform. I'm very happy to be the prince and that the town thinks my wife and I can represent the community. It's an honor for anybody, but for me it's especially honorable," Hoffman said.

The German-American fasching couple invites members of the Spangdahlem Air Base community to take part in Germany's silly season, continuing through Feb. 27.

22nd FS hones air combat skills against F-15s at RAF Lakenheath

Pilots learn differences in aircraft capabilities, gain teamwork insight

By Tech. Sgt. Mary McHale
48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

ROYAL AIR FORCE LAKENHEATH, England – Five F-16CJs and about 58 members of the 22nd Fighter Squadron arrived at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, Jan. 26 to conduct dissimilar air combat training.

According to Capt. James Cleet, 22nd FS chief of weapons, the deployment offers the opportunity for F-16 pilots to maneuver and reference

to a different type of aircraft.

"At Lakenheath, we only do one thing, we hone our air-to-air skills," he said. "At home, we do a majority of air-to-ground training so this is a great opportunity for our pilots."

"Dissimilar air combat is a fundamental part of the unit's training," said Lt. Col. Mark Fitzgerald, 493rd FS commander. "While a large portion of the unit's training is conducted in house, our highest levels of training are conducted against other types of aircraft. This training allows pilots to experience the most dynamic environment possible, flying against aircraft with different capabilities and

pilot proficiencies. Training like you plan to fight is central to building a winning team."

So far, Cleet said weather has been the biggest challenge, but it's an obstacle crews have overcome to successfully accomplish their assigned missions.

"The deployment offers the opportunity for us to see how F-15 pilots do business and they see how the F-16s do business," he said. "There's a lot of exchange, we learn to work together better."

Most 22nd FS members returned home this past weekend from RAF Lakenheath.



Airman 1st Class James Harper

A 22nd Fighter Squadron member does a pre-flight check on an F-16CJ at RAF Lakenheath, England.



Community Mailbox

La Leche

La Leche League meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Bitburg Annex hospital conference room. Call Margaret Loffelman at 06565-7555 or Alice DaFoe at 06561-683893.

Penny Lane

The base thrift shop winter clearance sale takes place 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 3. Ticketed items are offered at 50 percent off. Call Ela Payne at 06565-4514 for details.

Poland express

A trip to Poland takes place March 9-11. Cost is \$79 per person. Call Pam Chandler at 06561-670467.

Concert

The U.S. Air Forces in Europe Woodwind Ensemble performs at 1:40 p.m. Thursday in the Spangdahlem Middle School. Call 452-7259 for details.

Support group

The cancer support group meets 6-8 p.m. Thursday in the Bitburg Annex hospital conference room. Call Maj. Nancy Williams at 453-3161 for details.

Screenings

Infant and toddler developmental screenings take place 9-11 a.m. Monday in building 175 and 9-11 a.m. March 12 in the Bitburg Annex Chapel. Call the 52nd Medical Group Educational and Developmental Intervention Services Clinic at 452-8238 for details.

Dealing with divorce

A class in caring for children through divorce takes place 2-4:30 p.m. Feb. 27 in building 161. Call Connie Ketchum at 452-8279 for details or to register.



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

Alphabet soup

Spangdahlem Middle School student Cynthia Holt spells "fraud" during a school-wide spelling bee Feb. 8. Akash Attreya won the contest and goes on to test his knowledge at Department of Defense Dependent Schools European-level competitions.

New moms

A support group for new mothers takes place 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday in building 67. Call Cindy Gebhart at 453-3130.

Education fair

College representatives provide free information about distance learning, degree programs and attending college at 4 p.m. Thursday in the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center.

The education office closes 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday for the fair.

German kindergarten

The Grosslittgen public school has spaces available in kindergarten for children ages 3-6 living in Grosslittgen, Minderlittgen, Schladt, Karl, Himmrod or Musweiler villages.

Curriculum includes music, art and dance. Instruction is given in German, but classes are open to English-speaking children. Call Alois Debal at 06575-4400 for more information.

Tutors

Bitburg High School needs tutors and mentors. To volunteer, call Bernadette Young, school volunteer coordinator, at 453-7202 or 06561-61-7938.

Parent support

"Mentoring Moms and Parenting Partners" is a support program teaming experienced parents with new parents who would like someone to go to for advice. Call Dr. Suzanne Furman at 452-8279 or Becky Johnson at 452-6881 for more information.

Poland shopping trip

The 52nd Medical Group Poland shopping trip takes place March 2-4. Cost is \$90 for two seats for a single person or \$50 for one seat. Call Staff Sgt. Jody Yeager at 453-3336 or 06575-959703 for reservations.

Women's group

Circle of Friends, a new women's group, meets noon to 1 p.m. each Wednesday in the Spangdahlem Air Base housing unit 422-C

social room. Call Connie Ketchum at 452-8279 for details.

Family support center news

■The Transition Assistance Program four-day workshop takes place at 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Feb. 23.

■Air Force as a second language, a class for military spouses, takes place 9-11 a.m. Thursday.

■European job seekers meets noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 26 in building 307 on Spangdahlem Air Base. Call 452-6422 for details.

■Resume I takes place at 8 a.m. Feb. 27. Resume II takes place at 8 a.m. Feb. 28.

All classes take place in Bitburg Annex building 2001, unless listed otherwise. Call the family support center at 453-7491 to register or for more information.

Volunteers needed

The Bitburg Elementary School nurse seeks volunteers to assist with dental screenings 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday through Feb. 23. Call Tammy Dean at 453-7805 for details.

Scholarships

The Bitburg High School Scholarship Committee accepts applications for scholarships through Feb. 28. Seniors interested in applying should visit the school counselor or call 453-7937 for details.

Child find

Screenings for children ages 3-4 who may have developmental delays take place March 2 in the Spangdahlem Elementary School. Call Pat Wynne at 452-5071 for appointments.

Black history month event

The Black Cultural Awareness Association sponsors a banquet at 6 p.m. March 3. Location is to be determined. Call David Lewis at 452-7068 or 0175-3749256 for details.

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Bitburg Castle Tonight

Charlie's Angels (PG-13)

Jumping out of planes, rewiring computers, going undercover – it's all in a day's work for Charlie's Angels as they must dish out equal doses of cool detective work to survive their riskiest assignment ever.

Saturday

Charlie's Angels

Sunday

Lost Souls (R)

Maya's past has left her susceptible to demonic possession. After surviving the devil's grip, she's encouraged to join with a group of priests who believe the devil will soon inhabit the body of a human being and plunge the world into ultimate darkness.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

The Legend of Drunken Master (R)

Wong is a master martial artist - a drunken master, it turns out, skilled in an ancient form of combat. Her stern father has strictly forbidden her to use the potentially shameful style, but when foreign gangsters threaten the nation, Wong has no choice but to defy all the ancient codes of tradition to save China's most sacred treasures.

Thursday

Little Nicky (PG-13)

Little Nicky has two bullies for older brothers and his dad is the devil. When dad decides not to make his brothers the heir to his evil throne, they leave, bent on creating their own hell on Earth.

Spangdahlem Skyline

Tonight

Anti-trust (PG-13)

When a young computer whiz is wooed by a huge Silicon Valley company, he soon discovers his boss has rather nefarious ways around anti-trust complaints.

Saturday

Anti-trust

Sunday

The 6th Day (PG-13)

Imagine a world free of incurable diseases. A world where the family pet can be cloned and even tailored to match the decor of your home or a virtual girlfriend can be designed to your exact specifications. A remarkable world, in which the one thing that has eluded man since the beginning of time is finally within reach – immortality.

Monday

The 6th Day

Tuesday

Unbreakable (PG-13)

David, the sole survivor of a devastating train wreck, meets Elijah, a mysterious stranger who offers a bizarre explanation as to why David escaped without a single scratch, an explanation, which threatens to change David's family and life forever.

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 453-7541.

Germany's silly season begins

Ladies Fasching kicks off country's largest annual celebration

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

There's one event, which involves more celebrating than any other event in Germany. It's Fasching, or Germany's version of Mardi Gras, celebrated Thursday through Feb. 27 this year.

During Fasching, or Fastnacht, thousands of clubs host costume balls, dances and Sitzungen, or sessions. All events kick-off 11 minutes past the 11th hour. People dress in costumes and have all the fun they can stand until Ash Wednesday, Feb. 28, the day Lent starts.

Fasching is observed differently, depending on the part of the country in which it's celebrated. However, there's no doubt the most popular celebrations take place in the Rhineland — close to Spangdahlem Air Base. These celebrations begin Thursday with Weiber-astnacht, or Ladies Fasching.

Ladies Fasching is a day devoted to the women of Germany. Ladies dress in silly, colorful costumes, often as old women, and walk from door to door pulling jokes on people, especially local politicians. Throughout Ladies Fasching, fools offer to paint peoples' faces and provide them a drink for a small fee.

In many towns such as Trier, Bitburg, Wittlich and Speicher, it's traditional for the ladies to "capture" the local city hall and "steal" the city key from the mayor. This always takes place at 11:11 a.m.



Iris Reiff

Women in Ladies Fasching costumes carry a ladder head to the local town hall.

The intruders often set up a ladder and climb through the window into the Rathaus. The event is watched by local citizens, who all enjoy the silliness. After the ladies seize the key, they're in charge of the town for the day. Typically, bands play special Fasching music and the women serve beverages and



Costumed Fasching participants compare noses.

traditional holiday treats. On Fat Thursday it's also customary for the ladies to walk around and cut off men's ties with scissors. The safest thing is probably to not wear one that day.

Another tradition includes local children standing in village streets, stopping cars. They pretend they won't move unless the driver stops and pays them a small toll.

Although it's not required to pay the fee, it's recommended to slow down and be careful when driving around the youth.

Among the Fasching highlights are the famous Rose Monday parades taking place Feb. 26 in Koln, Mainz and Duesseldorf, just to name a few.

Out and about



■Fasching sessions take place Saturday at the following locations: in the Dockendorf Youth House; in the Speicher parish home; in Preist; in the Biersdorf Buergerhaus; in the Duddeldorf gymnasium; in the Trimpfort Youth House; in the Salmrohr Buerger hall; in Bruch; in Hetzerath; in the Niederkail Kailbach hall; in the Minderlittgen Buergerhaus; in Osann-Monzel; in the Trier Europe Halle. Ask a landlord or German friend for parade start times or locations not listed.

■Fasching parades take place Sunday in Mettendorf; at 4 p.m. Feb. 24 in Bernkastel-Kues; at 3:11 p.m. in Klausen-Krames; at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 25 in Biersdorf am See; at 2:11 p.m. in Bitburg, including a children's parade. More take place at in Doerbach, Preist, Salmthal, Plein, Bruch, Hetzerath, Platten, Niederkail, Burg, Pluetscheid, Rodershausen, Koerperich, Niederpruem, Buedesheim, Kyllburg, Badem, Wittlich-Plein, and in Manderscheid. More Fasching parades take place Feb. 24 at the Speicher parish home, in Wissmannsdorf, in Huettingen, in Hetzerath, at the Landscheid Eifelland hall, at the Badem Gemeindehalle, at the Pickliessem Gemeindehalle, at the Trier Europa hall and Feb. 25 in Duddeldorf. Additional local villages may also host a session between now and Ash Wednesday.

■Other fasching celebrations take place:

Thursday – a ladies ball and men's

ballet in Trier-Zewen.

Feb. 25 – a prize masquerade ball in Granddorf.

Feb. 25 – a men's fasching celebration at 8:11 p.m. in Arenrath.

Feb. 26 – a masquerade ball at the Trimpfort Youth House and in Badem.

■Rose Monday parades take place Feb. 26 in Trier, Landscheid, Duddeldorf, Altrich, Osann, Idenheim, Waxweiler, Daleiden, Wallendorf, Ferschweiler, Neuerburg, Pruem, Pickliessem, Granddorf, Oberkail, Rittersdorf, at 2:11 p.m. in Niederoefflingen, Gladbach, Kroev, and Feb. 27 in Minderlittgen.

■Children's fasching entertainment takes place at 2:11 p.m. Sunday in the Manderscheid Kurhaus and at 8:11 p.m. in Klausen; in Trier-Zewen, in Granddorf, in Plein, in Doerbach, at the Salmthal Saal Ludwig, in the Salmrohr Buerger hall, in the Plein Unkensteinhall, in Klausen, in Gladbach, in Hetzerath, at 3 p.m. Feb. 27 in the Landscheid Eifelland hall, Thursday in the Moetsch Youth house, in Spangdahlem village and in Badem.

■Children's sessions take place at 8:11 p.m. Feb. 23 in the Bitburg Haus der Jugend, 3-5 p.m. Wednesday in the Bitburg Haus der Jugend, at 2:11 p.m. Feb. 24 in Baustert, at 2:11 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Bergweiler Buergersaal, in the Trier Europe Halle, at the Altrich Feldscheune, Feb. 26 at the Ehlenz Gemeindehaus, at the Biersdorf Buergerhaus, at 2:11 p.m. at the

Bettingen Youth House, Feb. 27 at the Huettingen Saal Zender, at 2:11 p.m. in Arenrath, at the Haus des Gastes, in Kyllburg, in Arenrath.

■Visit a flea market Sunday at the Bitburg Hela Parkhaus, located on Koelner Strasse; at the Pruem Hall and Messegeleande; along the Zelinggen Mosel shore, at the Koblenz Messehalle and Freigelaende on Wallersheim Kreisel; at the Kaiserslautern Messeplatz, at the Kauserslautern Burgherren hall, at the Kauserslautern Kulturzentrum Kammgarn, at the Saarbruecken Saarmesse, located inside hall 7 and at the Wiesbaden Dorint-Pallas hotel.

■Wanderers and Eifel residents are invited to participate in a volksmarsch Feb. 24 in Rothenburg. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Non-walkers are also welcome for an additional cost. Call Theresa Stevens at 06569-963184 for details.

Information, Tickets and Tours offers the following tours in February. Call the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center at 452-6567 or the Bitburg Annex community center at 453-7120 for details.

■Bavarian castles express, Feb. 24. Cost is \$80 for adults, \$75 for children ages 3-14.

■Maastricht and Applebees, Feb. 24. Cost is \$30 for adults, \$25 for children ages 3-12.

■Rosenmontag-Fasching parade in Koln, Feb. 26. Cost is \$25 for adults, \$15 for children.

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The outdoor recreation program sponsors the following trips in February and March. Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 452-7176 for details.

■Friday after work spa trip, Feb. 23. Cost is \$35 per person. Minimum age is 10.

■English-style horseback riding, Feb. 25. Cost is \$25. Minimum age is 12 if accompanied by an adult; otherwise 14 years old.

■Snow bus special to Feldburg, Germany; March 3-4. Cost is \$90 per person. Minimum age is 14.

■Indoor climbing wall trip, March 10. Cost is \$25 per person. Minimum age is 14.

■Underground mountain biking, March 11. Cost is \$30 biking only; \$50 with two hour spa. Minimum age is 10.

■Luxembourg cave rappel, March 17. Cost is \$30 per person. Minimum age is 14.

■Castle, cave and spa in Valkenburg, the Netherlands; March 18. Cost is \$45 per person with spa; \$20 without. Minimum age is 18.

■Saalbach, Austria ski trip, March 24-27. Cost is \$290 with ski rental; \$265 with own equipment.



Jacob Smithee breaks down a Ramstein Air Base opponent during the All-European Wrestling Championships Feb. 9.

Bitburg five go All European

Team assistant coach wins Division II coach of year honors

By Ross Calvert
Bitburg High School wrestling coach

Bitburg High School broke a Division II wrestling record by placing 16 wrestlers on the All Conference Team, despite the fact that nine were first-year wrestlers.

Achieving all-conference honors were Jacob Smithee, Steve Mazzi, Broderick Lockett, John Gabaldon, Chris Reynolds, Andrew Schenck, Matt Reynolds, Ryan Butler, Braden Blake, Jeremy Ponce, Adam Pickett, Charlie Pierce, Jed Balliett, Matt Holas, Jeremy Wooten and Justin Sloane.

Wrestlers making the all-conference squad earned the chance to compete in the All European Championship Wrestling Tournament in Wuerzburg Feb. 9 and Saturday. Following the two-day tourney, the Barons placed five wrestlers on the All European Team — Matt Reynolds, Smithee, Mazzi, Holas and Ponce.

Topping off the Barons successful wrestling season at the All European Championship Wrestling Tournament was Coach Ethan Lake bringing home the Division II Coach of the Year Award.

"This team was nothing short of amazing this year," Lake said. "We had our ups and downs through the season, but we ultimately stayed on top of things. The hardest part was building their confidence."

Lake said his success could only be measured by the wrestlers determination and sweat.

"They deserve the credit," he said. "I would have to also say none of this would have been possible without the seasoned guidance and support of Coach Calvert. He put a lot of faith in this team and me. His experience and abilities made this season what it was. I am glad that he will continue to be part of this team."

Bitburg takes four games from SHAPE

By Denny Lemmon
Bitburg High School girl's basketball coach

Varsity and junior varsity girl's basketball squads took two games each against the SHAPE Lady Spartans Feb. 9 and Saturday.

The Lady Barons varsity team won 53-24 and 56-20, while the JV emerged with 29-16 and 39-24 wins. With the victories, the varsity is 10-3 on the season while the JV extended its record to 12-1.

Before a packed home crowd on the Bitburg Middle School court, the Lady Barons varsity jumped off to a 15-2 first quarter lead in game one. Continuing with its relentless pressing defense, the Lady Barons went into the half leading 35-6. Juniors Crystal Bessler and Constance Maziel each scored eight points to pace Bitburg in the first half of play.

To prevent a mercy rule (40-point margin), the Lady Barons substituted freely throughout the second half and

coasted through the rest of the game.

Again Saturday morning, the Lady Barons jumped off to a big first quarter lead 23-4. Kimberly McLear, Maziel and Bessler each contributed six points in a powerful first quarter offensive attack. The Barons once again cleared the bench as they easily defeated the squad from Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

In the two-game series, Bessler led the team offensively with 20 points. Kimberly McLear hit for 17 while both Brittany Sanders and Maziel added 16.

In JV game one action, the Lady Barons played strong defense as they jumped off to a 16-8 first half lead. The Lady Barons prevented the Lady Spartans from scoring in the third quarter and went on to an easy victory. Freshman Janise Russ led the Barons offensively with 13 points.

The Lady Barons once again proved dominant Saturday morning,

taking a 23-8 into the half. Success continued into the second half for another JV win. Sophomore Katie Carr led the offensive attack with 12 points. Freshman Jennifer Redfoot had her best game of the season hitting two three-pointers to total 10 points, plus making three monstrous blocks.

The teams wrap up league play this weekend when they travel to Allied Forces North in the Netherlands before the Central European Finals to be held in Mannheim.

Varsity two-game box score:

Maziel 16 points 2 rebounds 2 assists 8 steals, Bessler 20 5 0 4, Jessica Wood 2 0 2 3, McLear 17 9 4 9, Wesley Canada 11 7 7 6, Sanders 16 8 0 5, Elizabeth Regalado 2 1 0 0, Russ 12 3 2 2, Katie Carr 9 7 3 2, Deneshia Roberson 2 6 0 2

Junior varsity two-game box score:

Andrea Drake 0 2 0 0, Wood 10 3 4 2, Redfoot 10 3 0 0, Laura Piccolo 3 0 0 0, Russ 21 5 2 4, Carr 16 3 4 4, Quenessa Bush 2 7 2 0, Miranda Lavey 2 7 0 0, Chelsea Gavagan 0 3 0 1, Alisha Bush 0 1 0 2, Roberson 4 5 0 1



Staff Sgt. Tim Cook

Layup action

James McLean, Bitburg Baron guard, tries a reverse layup against the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe Spartans Saturday at Bitburg High School. The Barons won 80-70.

Eifel sports world

Rodeo

The Spangdahlem Air Base rodeo team seeks new members to compete in the European Rodeo Cowboys Association competition.

Call Travis Beck at 06561-949669 or Daniel Wagley at 06561-670298 for details.

Fishing

The Eifel Anglers German and American Fishing Club offers a fishing class 7-9 p.m. Thursday and Feb. 23, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 25 in the American Legion on B-50. Upon completion of the course, people are eligible to obtain a five-year German fishing license.

Cost of the course is \$120 and includes a one-year club membership, or \$100 without club membership. People who opt for the course with membership may pay in two installments.

In addition, the club invites members and non-members with German fishing licenses to fish in the club's trout pond near St. Thomas 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Sunday.

Each fish caught costs only 3.50 DM during the Sunday hours. License holders are reminded one non-licensed person can fish as a guest; however, any fish caught counts toward the licensed members total.

For more information, call 06565-94094 or Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero at 452-5244.

Golf

The Icebreaker Golf Tournament takes place at 9 a.m. March 24 at the Spangdahlem Air Base golf course. Teams consist of four people, 18-hole select shot. Cost is \$10 per person plus green fees.

Call 452-6821 for details.

Racquetball

A racquetball tournament takes place March 24-25 in the Spangdahlem Air Base fitness center. Registration fee is \$20 before March 9. Cost for two matches is \$5. Call Staff Sgt. Susan O'Donnell at 452-6634 for details.

Youth sports news

■Operation Night Hoops, night basketball, takes place 6-10 p.m. each Friday and Saturday from March 2 through April 7 in the Spangdahlem Air Base and Bitburg Annex youth centers. The activity is free for youth activity card holders ages 13-18. Registration takes place through February.

■Youth baseball registration takes place Monday through March 30 at the Spangdahlem Air Base and Bitburg Annex youth centers.

■A free intramural indoor soccer program is available for all youth program ID card holders. Registration continues through February. Volunteers are also needed to monitor the program.

■Youth ages 12-14 interested in wrestling should call Chief Master Sgt. Ken Mcquiston at 452-6277 or 06561-944575 for details.

For more information concerning youth sports programs, call 452-7545 or 453-7329.